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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 31 March 2011, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Carrión-Mena ..... (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2011/18)

2. **The Chairman** said that he had sent a letter to the Government of the Cayman Islands, the prospective venue of the seminar, proposing 24 to 26 May 2011 as the dates of the upcoming Caribbean regional seminar. He expected to receive a positive response in the coming days. The Secretariat had already been instructed to begin logistical preparations, in coordination with the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Cayman Islands, with a view to holding the seminar on those dates. Upon formal acceptance by the Territory, the members of the Special Committee would be officially informed of the dates and venue by an aide-memoire that would also contain a copy of the letter dated 14 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, addressed to the Chairman, regarding the hosting of the seminar. As in the past, the Committee would also celebrate the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories at the seminar. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to hold the seminar in Georgetown, Cayman Islands, from 24 to 26 May 2011.

3. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee

4. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee's eight-member delegation to the Caribbean regional seminar would comprise the Bureau members plus one Committee member from each regional group represented on the Committee. The United Nations would bear the travel costs of the delegation. In view of the time limitations, he took it that the Committee wished him to complete the selection of the delegation based on the consultations with the regional groups represented by more than one member of the Committee; the Group of Eastern European Countries would, of course, be represented by the Russian Federation as its only member. He would inform the Committee of the selection.

5. *It was so decided.*

Extension of invitations to experts and organizations

6. **The Chairman** said that, following consultations, the Bureau would decide whether to follow the Special Committee's normal practice of extending invitations to the seminar to selected experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the list of which would be reviewed by the Bureau and circulated to all members of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to authorize him to finalize the list of experts and organizations to be invited to the seminar.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with a previous decision of the Committee, invitations to the seminar would also be extended to all elected and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as to Member States that were not members of the Committee, administering Powers, specialized agencies within the United Nations system and some regional organizations. The United Nations would bear the travel costs only of the three experts, three NGOs and representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the seminar

9. **The Chairman** drew attention to the guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda for the seminar, as contained in document A/AC.109/2011/18. The text of the document was basically the same as in previous years with the exception of the venue and dates of the seminar and its language, which would be English as it was being held in an English-speaking country.

10. **Mr. St. Aimee** (Saint Lucia), referring to item 3 of the proposed agenda, asked whether suggestions and proposals for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would be invited from Member States in advance so that they could be discussed at the seminar.

11. **The Chairman** agreed that that approach should be followed. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the seminar.

12. *It was so decided.*

Other matters

13. **The Chairman** said that as it was his intention to lead the Committee as transparently and proactively as possible, he would circulate to all members of the Committee a communication inviting them to put forward the names of additional experts not included on the Secretariat's list. A greater participation should be encouraged and the Committee should not be restricted solely to the list that had already been established.

14. Responding to a query from the representative of Cuba at the most recent Bureau meeting in relation to discussion of the place and date of the regional seminar, he said that the Committee's website contained detailed information about the Non-Self-Governing Territories. With regard to the choice of venue for the seminar, various political and logistical factors had been considered and it had been decided to proceed with the arrangements begun by the Government of Grand Cayman and the administering Power.

15. Lastly, he paid tribute to the work of the outgoing Chairman, Mr. St. Aimee of Saint Lucia, for his efforts to move the Committee forward in its work during his term in office.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.